



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 6
1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200
DALLAS, TEXAS 75202 – 2733

September 13, 2016

Office of the Regional Administrator

The Honorable John Boozman
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Boozman:

Thank you for your letter dated August 24, 2016, to Ms. Gina McCarthy, Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, concerning your interest in the progress being made regarding water quality within the Illinois River Watershed. Your letter was forwarded to me as Arkansas and Oklahoma fall under my jurisdiction.

The EPA is pleased to share with you that we remain fully committed to the cooperative approach you describe, and to underscore that our commitment has never wavered in that regard since we began this project in late November 2009. Moreover, the EPA would be happy to elaborate on information regarding recent progress on developing a model for the Illinois River Watershed, progress that is the direct result of our having worked closely with our state and tribal partners.

Over the last six months, the EPA has convened four meetings with representatives of stakeholder agencies to discuss and work through technical comments/concerns based on their reviews of the modeling reports. The agencies represented in this technical workgroup include: the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission; the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality; the Oklahoma Conservation Commission; the Oklahoma Water Resources Board; the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality; and, the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry. In addition, Mr. Tom Elkins of the Cherokee Nation and Dr. Brian Haggard of the Arkansas Water Resources Center (University of Arkansas) participate. We have had energetic discussions around many issues including, for example, those related to rainfall; spatial and temporal application of litter; inconsistencies in simulated versus monitored flow, especially in consideration of drought conditions that existed in parts of 2005-2006; and additional sources of nutrients in the watershed, to name just a few. These discussions have been informative and helpful in guiding the Agency to include and accommodate a number of changes to improve both the watershed and lake models.

The EPA welcomes all stakeholder comments provided both before and during the upcoming formal public participation process, and continues to be open and transparent regarding our progress in developing the Illinois River Watershed models. The EPA's public release of various modeling reports and our overall engagement with the broad spectrum of stakeholders reflects the EPA's recognition of the significant public interest in our model development efforts. Enclosed is a copy of our recent correspondence with the Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission as an example of our efforts to address stakeholder comments while we continue working to refine the models. The EPA has also received a number of comments from industry representatives and their consultants.

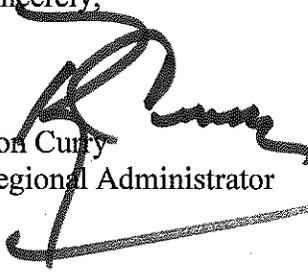
Many of these stakeholder comments present the same or similar issues as those raised in comments made by members of the technical workgroup. Thus, we have been considering and we continue to address both municipal and industrial stakeholder concerns as we work through the issues raised by the technical workgroup.

As the EPA continues our efforts to develop and refine the Illinois River and Lake Tenkiller models, we remain fully committed to the use of sound science and appropriate modeling methodologies, as well as to the principles of public involvement in decision-making. Therefore, to ensure the models we provide are scientifically defensible and reflect public review and input, we intend to engage watershed stakeholders and the general public this fall to provide an overview of the watershed and lake models and to request public comments on both. We anticipate making the revised models available for the public review and comment, and we will continue to engage our technical workgroup as we make any additional changes based upon stakeholder and public comments submitted, including but not limited to any concerns regarding the model's calibration and validation.

After the EPA has thoroughly considered all public, stakeholder, and workgroup comments, our intent is to provide our partner agencies a set of water quality models supported by a rigorous technical basis for the eventual development of total maximum daily loads. However, the EPA will not suggest any wasteload or load allocations without thoroughly consulting with principal representatives of key agencies in both states. As mentioned in your letter, infrastructure investments, implementation of nutrient management plans, and other efforts by communities and landowners already have contributed to a degree of water quality improvement in the Illinois River Watershed. More remains to be done so that both state's water quality standards can be met and all designated uses can be restored, and we look forward to continuing our support for future efforts.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (214) 665-2100, or your staff may contact Mr. Cary Martindale, Congressional Liaison, at (214) 665-8147.

Sincerely,


Ron Curry
Regional Administrator

Enclosure

Identical letters sent to:

The Honorable Jim Inhofe
United States Senate

The Honorable Tom Cotton
United States Senate

The Honorable James Lankford
United States Senate

The Honorable Steve Womack
House of Representatives

The Honorable Markwayne Mullins
House of Representative



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 6
1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200
DALLAS, TEXAS 75202 - 2733

September 13, 2016

Office of the Regional Administrator

The Honorable Jim Inhofe
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Inhofe:

Thank you for your letter dated August 24, 2016, to Ms. Gina McCarthy, Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, concerning your interest in the progress being made regarding water quality within the Illinois River Watershed. Your letter was forwarded to me as Arkansas and Oklahoma fall under my jurisdiction.

The EPA is pleased to share with you that we remain fully committed to the cooperative approach you describe, and to underscore that our commitment has never wavered in that regard since we began this project in late November 2009. Moreover, the EPA would be happy to elaborate on information regarding recent progress on developing a model for the Illinois River Watershed, progress that is the direct result of our having worked closely with our state and tribal partners.

Over the last six months, the EPA has convened four meetings with representatives of stakeholder agencies to discuss and work through technical comments/concerns based on their reviews of the modeling reports. The agencies represented in this technical workgroup include: the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission; the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality; the Oklahoma Conservation Commission; the Oklahoma Water Resources Board; the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality; and, the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry. In addition, Mr. Tom Elkins of the Cherokee Nation and Dr. Brian Haggard of the Arkansas Water Resources Center (University of Arkansas) participate. We have had energetic discussions around many issues including, for example, those related to rainfall; spatial and temporal application of litter; inconsistencies in simulated versus monitored flow, especially in consideration of drought conditions that existed in parts of 2005-2006; and additional sources of nutrients in the watershed, to name just a few. These discussions have been informative and helpful in guiding the Agency to include and accommodate a number of changes to improve both the watershed and lake models.

The EPA welcomes all stakeholder comments provided both before and during the upcoming formal public participation process, and continues to be open and transparent regarding our progress in developing the Illinois River Watershed models. The EPA's public release of various modeling reports and our overall engagement with the broad spectrum of stakeholders reflects the EPA's recognition of the significant public interest in our model development efforts. Enclosed is a copy of our recent correspondence with the Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission as an example of our efforts to address stakeholder comments while we continue working to refine the models. The EPA has also received a number of comments from industry representatives and their consultants.

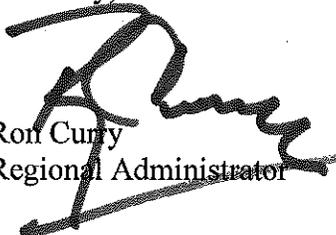
Many of these stakeholder comments present the same or similar issues as those raised in comments made by members of the technical workgroup. Thus, we have been considering and we continue to address both municipal and industrial stakeholder concerns as we work through the issues raised by the technical workgroup.

As the EPA continues our efforts to develop and refine the Illinois River and Lake Tenkiller models, we remain fully committed to the use of sound science and appropriate modeling methodologies, as well as to the principles of public involvement in decision-making. Therefore, to ensure the models we provide are scientifically defensible and reflect public review and input, we intend to engage watershed stakeholders and the general public this fall to provide an overview of the watershed and lake models and to request public comments on both. We anticipate making the revised models available for the public review and comment, and we will continue to engage our technical workgroup as we make any additional changes based upon stakeholder and public comments submitted, including but not limited to any concerns regarding the model's calibration and validation.

After the EPA has thoroughly considered all public, stakeholder, and workgroup comments, our intent is to provide our partner agencies a set of water quality models supported by a rigorous technical basis for the eventual development of total maximum daily loads. However, the EPA will not suggest any wasteload or load allocations without thoroughly consulting with principal representatives of key agencies in both states. As mentioned in your letter, infrastructure investments, implementation of nutrient management plans, and other efforts by communities and landowners already have contributed to a degree of water quality improvement in the Illinois River Watershed. More remains to be done so that both state's water quality standards can be met and all designated uses can be restored, and we look forward to continuing our support for future efforts.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (214) 665-2100, or your staff may contact Mr. Cary Martindale, Congressional Liaison, at (214) 665-8147.

Sincerely,


Ron Curry
Regional Administrator

Enclosure

Identical letters sent to:

The Honorable John Boozman
United States Senate

The Honorable Tom Cotton
United States Senate

The Honorable James Lankford
United States Senate

The Honorable Steve Womack
House of Representatives

The Honorable Markwayne Mullins
House of Representatives



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 6
1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200
DALLAS, TEXAS 75202 – 2733

September 13, 2016

Office of the Regional Administrator

The Honorable Tom Cotton
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Cotton:

Thank you for your letter dated August 24, 2016, to Ms. Gina McCarthy, Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, concerning your interest in the progress being made regarding water quality within the Illinois River Watershed. Your letter was forwarded to me as Arkansas and Oklahoma fall under my jurisdiction.

The EPA is pleased to share with you that we remain fully committed to the cooperative approach you describe, and to underscore that our commitment has never wavered in that regard since we began this project in late November 2009. Moreover, the EPA would be happy to elaborate on information regarding recent progress on developing a model for the Illinois River Watershed, progress that is the direct result of our having worked closely with our state and tribal partners.

Over the last six months, the EPA has convened four meetings with representatives of stakeholder agencies to discuss and work through technical comments/concerns based on their reviews of the modeling reports. The agencies represented in this technical workgroup include: the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission; the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality; the Oklahoma Conservation Commission; the Oklahoma Water Resources Board; the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality; and, the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry. In addition, Mr. Tom Elkins of the Cherokee Nation and Dr. Brian Haggard of the Arkansas Water Resources Center (University of Arkansas) participate. We have had energetic discussions around many issues including, for example, those related to rainfall; spatial and temporal application of litter; inconsistencies in simulated versus monitored flow, especially in consideration of drought conditions that existed in parts of 2005-2006; and additional sources of nutrients in the watershed, to name just a few. These discussions have been informative and helpful in guiding the Agency to include and accommodate a number of changes to improve both the watershed and lake models.

The EPA welcomes all stakeholder comments provided both before and during the upcoming formal public participation process, and continues to be open and transparent regarding our progress in developing the Illinois River Watershed models. The EPA's public release of various modeling reports and our overall engagement with the broad spectrum of stakeholders reflects the EPA's recognition of the significant public interest in our model development efforts. Enclosed is a copy of our recent correspondence with the Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission as an example of our efforts to address stakeholder comments while we continue working to refine the models. The EPA has also received a number of comments from industry representatives and their consultants.

Many of these stakeholder comments present the same or similar issues as those raised in comments made by members of the technical workgroup. Thus, we have been considering and we continue to address both municipal and industrial stakeholder concerns as we work through the issues raised by the technical workgroup.

As the EPA continues our efforts to develop and refine the Illinois River and Lake Tenkiller models, we remain fully committed to the use of sound science and appropriate modeling methodologies, as well as to the principles of public involvement in decision-making. Therefore, to ensure the models we provide are scientifically defensible and reflect public review and input, we intend to engage watershed stakeholders and the general public this fall to provide an overview of the watershed and lake models and to request public comments on both. We anticipate making the revised models available for the public review and comment, and we will continue to engage our technical workgroup as we make any additional changes based upon stakeholder and public comments submitted, including but not limited to any concerns regarding the model's calibration and validation.

After the EPA has thoroughly considered all public, stakeholder, and workgroup comments, our intent is to provide our partner agencies a set of water quality models supported by a rigorous technical basis for the eventual development of total maximum daily loads. However, the EPA will not suggest any wasteload or load allocations without thoroughly consulting with principal representatives of key agencies in both states. As mentioned in your letter, infrastructure investments, implementation of nutrient management plans, and other efforts by communities and landowners already have contributed to a degree of water quality improvement in the Illinois River Watershed. More remains to be done so that both state's water quality standards can be met and all designated uses can be restored, and we look forward to continuing our support for future efforts.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (214) 665-2100, or your staff may contact Mr. Cary Martindale, Congressional Liaison, at (214) 665-8147.

Sincerely,



Ron Curry
Regional Administrator

Enclosure

Identical letters sent to:

The Honorable John Boozman
United States Senate

The Honorable Jim Inhofe
United States Senate

The Honorable James Lankford
United States Senate

The Honorable Steve Womack
House of Representatives

The Honorable Markwayne Mullins
House of Representatives



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 6
1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200
DALLAS, TEXAS 75202 - 2733

September 13, 2016

Office of the Regional Administrator

The Honorable James Lankford
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Lankford:

Thank you for your letter dated August 24, 2016, to Ms. Gina McCarthy, Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, concerning your interest in the progress being made regarding water quality within the Illinois River Watershed. Your letter was forwarded to me as Arkansas and Oklahoma fall under my jurisdiction.

The EPA is pleased to share with you that we remain fully committed to the cooperative approach you describe, and to underscore that our commitment has never wavered in that regard since we began this project in late November 2009. Moreover, the EPA would be happy to elaborate on information regarding recent progress on developing a model for the Illinois River Watershed, progress that is the direct result of our having worked closely with our state and tribal partners.

Over the last six months, the EPA has convened four meetings with representatives of stakeholder agencies to discuss and work through technical comments/concerns based on their reviews of the modeling reports. The agencies represented in this technical workgroup include: the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission; the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality; the Oklahoma Conservation Commission; the Oklahoma Water Resources Board; the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality; and, the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry. In addition, Mr. Tom Elkins of the Cherokee Nation and Dr. Brian Haggard of the Arkansas Water Resources Center (University of Arkansas) participate. We have had energetic discussions around many issues including, for example, those related to rainfall; spatial and temporal application of litter; inconsistencies in simulated versus monitored flow, especially in consideration of drought conditions that existed in parts of 2005-2006; and additional sources of nutrients in the watershed, to name just a few. These discussions have been informative and helpful in guiding the Agency to include and accommodate a number of changes to improve both the watershed and lake models.

The EPA welcomes all stakeholder comments provided both before and during the upcoming formal public participation process, and continues to be open and transparent regarding our progress in developing the Illinois River Watershed models. The EPA's public release of various modeling reports and our overall engagement with the broad spectrum of stakeholders reflects the EPA's recognition of the significant public interest in our model development efforts. Enclosed is a copy of our recent correspondence with the Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission as an example of our efforts to address stakeholder comments while we continue working to refine the models. The EPA has also received a number of comments from industry representatives and their consultants.

Many of these stakeholder comments present the same or similar issues as those raised in comments made by members of the technical workgroup. Thus, we have been considering and we continue to address both municipal and industrial stakeholder concerns as we work through the issues raised by the technical workgroup.

As the EPA continues our efforts to develop and refine the Illinois River and Lake Tenkiller models, we remain fully committed to the use of sound science and appropriate modeling methodologies, as well as to the principles of public involvement in decision-making. Therefore, to ensure the models we provide are scientifically defensible and reflect public review and input, we intend to engage watershed stakeholders and the general public this fall to provide an overview of the watershed and lake models and to request public comments on both. We anticipate making the revised models available for the public review and comment, and we will continue to engage our technical workgroup as we make any additional changes based upon stakeholder and public comments submitted, including but not limited to any concerns regarding the model's calibration and validation.

After the EPA has thoroughly considered all public, stakeholder, and workgroup comments, our intent is to provide our partner agencies a set of water quality models supported by a rigorous technical basis for the eventual development of total maximum daily loads. However, the EPA will not suggest any wasteload or load allocations without thoroughly consulting with principal representatives of key agencies in both states. As mentioned in your letter, infrastructure investments, implementation of nutrient management plans, and other efforts by communities and landowners already have contributed to a degree of water quality improvement in the Illinois River Watershed. More remains to be done so that both state's water quality standards can be met and all designated uses can be restored, and we look forward to continuing our support for future efforts.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (214) 665-2100, or your staff may contact Mr. Cary Martindale, Congressional Liaison, at (214) 665-8147.

Sincerely,


Ron Curry
Regional Administrator

Enclosure

Identical letters sent to:

The Honorable John Boozman
United States Senate

The Honorable Tom Cotton
United States Senate

The Honorable Jim Inhofe
United States Senate

The Honorable Steve Womack
House of Representatives

The Honorable Markwayne Mullins
House of Representatives



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 6
1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200
DALLAS, TEXAS 75202 - 2733

September 13, 2016

Office of the Regional Administrator

The Honorable Steve Womack
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Womack:

Thank you for your letter dated August 24, 2016, to Ms. Gina McCarthy, Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, concerning your interest in the progress being made regarding water quality within the Illinois River Watershed. Your letter was forwarded to me as Arkansas and Oklahoma fall under my jurisdiction.

The EPA is pleased to share with you that we remain fully committed to the cooperative approach you describe, and to underscore that our commitment has never wavered in that regard since we began this project in late November 2009. Moreover, the EPA would be happy to elaborate on information regarding recent progress on developing a model for the Illinois River Watershed, progress that is the direct result of our having worked closely with our state and tribal partners.

Over the last six months, the EPA has convened four meetings with representatives of stakeholder agencies to discuss and work through technical comments/concerns based on their reviews of the modeling reports. The agencies represented in this technical workgroup include: the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission; the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality; the Oklahoma Conservation Commission; the Oklahoma Water Resources Board; the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality; and, the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry. In addition, Mr. Tom Elkins of the Cherokee Nation and Dr. Brian Haggard of the Arkansas Water Resources Center (University of Arkansas) participate. We have had energetic discussions around many issues including, for example, those related to rainfall; spatial and temporal application of litter; inconsistencies in simulated versus monitored flow, especially in consideration of drought conditions that existed in parts of 2005-2006; and additional sources of nutrients in the watershed, to name just a few. These discussions have been informative and helpful in guiding the Agency to include and accommodate a number of changes to improve both the watershed and lake models.

The EPA welcomes all stakeholder comments provided both before and during the upcoming formal public participation process, and continues to be open and transparent regarding our progress in developing the Illinois River Watershed models. The EPA's public release of various modeling reports and our overall engagement with the broad spectrum of stakeholders reflects the EPA's recognition of the significant public interest in our model development efforts. Enclosed is a copy of our recent correspondence with the Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission as an example of our efforts to address stakeholder comments while we continue working to refine the models. The EPA has also received a number of comments from industry representatives and their consultants.

Many of these stakeholder comments present the same or similar issues as those raised in comments made by members of the technical workgroup. Thus, we have been considering and we continue to address both municipal and industrial stakeholder concerns as we work through the issues raised by the technical workgroup.

As the EPA continues our efforts to develop and refine the Illinois River and Lake Tenkiller models, we remain fully committed to the use of sound science and appropriate modeling methodologies, as well as to the principles of public involvement in decision-making. Therefore, to ensure the models we provide are scientifically defensible and reflect public review and input, we intend to engage watershed stakeholders and the general public this fall to provide an overview of the watershed and lake models and to request public comments on both. We anticipate making the revised models available for the public review and comment, and we will continue to engage our technical workgroup as we make any additional changes based upon stakeholder and public comments submitted, including but not limited to any concerns regarding the model's calibration and validation.

After the EPA has thoroughly considered all public, stakeholder, and workgroup comments, our intent is to provide our partner agencies a set of water quality models supported by a rigorous technical basis for the eventual development of total maximum daily loads. However, the EPA will not suggest any wasteload or load allocations without thoroughly consulting with principal representatives of key agencies in both states. As mentioned in your letter, infrastructure investments, implementation of nutrient management plans, and other efforts by communities and landowners already have contributed to a degree of water quality improvement in the Illinois River Watershed. More remains to be done so that both state's water quality standards can be met and all designated uses can be restored, and we look forward to continuing our support for future efforts.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (214) 665-2100, or your staff may contact Mr. Cary Martindale, Congressional Liaison, at (214) 665-8147.

Sincerely,


Ron Curry
Regional Administrator

Enclosure

Identical letters sent to:

The Honorable John Boozman
United States Senate

The Honorable Tom Cotton
United States Senate

The Honorable Jim Inhofe
United States Senate

The Honorable James Lankford
United States Senate

The Honorable Markwayne Mullins
House of Representatives



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 6
1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200
DALLAS, TEXAS 75202 - 2733

September 13, 2016

Office of the Regional Administrator

The Honorable Markwayne Mullins
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Mullins:

Thank you for your letter dated August 24, 2016, to Ms. Gina McCarthy, Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, concerning your interest in the progress being made regarding water quality within the Illinois River Watershed. Your letter was forwarded to me as Arkansas and Oklahoma fall under my jurisdiction.

The EPA is pleased to share with you that we remain fully committed to the cooperative approach you describe, and to underscore that our commitment has never wavered in that regard since we began this project in late November 2009. Moreover, the EPA would be happy to elaborate on information regarding recent progress on developing a model for the Illinois River Watershed, progress that is the direct result of our having worked closely with our state and tribal partners.

Over the last six months, the EPA has convened four meetings with representatives of stakeholder agencies to discuss and work through technical comments/concerns based on their reviews of the modeling reports. The agencies represented in this technical workgroup include: the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission; the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality; the Oklahoma Conservation Commission; the Oklahoma Water Resources Board; the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality; and, the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry. In addition, Mr. Tom Elkins of the Cherokee Nation and Dr. Brian Haggard of the Arkansas Water Resources Center (University of Arkansas) participate. We have had energetic discussions around many issues including, for example, those related to rainfall; spatial and temporal application of litter; inconsistencies in simulated versus monitored flow, especially in consideration of drought conditions that existed in parts of 2005-2006; and additional sources of nutrients in the watershed, to name just a few. These discussions have been informative and helpful in guiding the Agency to include and accommodate a number of changes to improve both the watershed and lake models.

The EPA welcomes all stakeholder comments provided both before and during the upcoming formal public participation process, and continues to be open and transparent regarding our progress in developing the Illinois River Watershed models. The EPA's public release of various modeling reports and our overall engagement with the broad spectrum of stakeholders reflects the EPA's recognition of the significant public interest in our model development efforts. Enclosed is a copy of our recent correspondence with the Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission as an example of our efforts to address stakeholder comments while we continue working to refine the models. The EPA has also received a number of comments from industry representatives and their consultants.

Many of these stakeholder comments present the same or similar issues as those raised in comments made by members of the technical workgroup. Thus, we have been considering and we continue to address both municipal and industrial stakeholder concerns as we work through the issues raised by the technical workgroup.

As the EPA continues our efforts to develop and refine the Illinois River and Lake Tenkiller models, we remain fully committed to the use of sound science and appropriate modeling methodologies, as well as to the principles of public involvement in decision-making. Therefore, to ensure the models we provide are scientifically defensible and reflect public review and input, we intend to engage watershed stakeholders and the general public this fall to provide an overview of the watershed and lake models and to request public comments on both. We anticipate making the revised models available for the public review and comment, and we will continue to engage our technical workgroup as we make any additional changes based upon stakeholder and public comments submitted, including but not limited to any concerns regarding the model's calibration and validation.

After the EPA has thoroughly considered all public, stakeholder, and workgroup comments, our intent is to provide our partner agencies a set of water quality models supported by a rigorous technical basis for the eventual development of total maximum daily loads. However, the EPA will not suggest any wasteload or load allocations without thoroughly consulting with principal representatives of key agencies in both states. As mentioned in your letter, infrastructure investments, implementation of nutrient management plans, and other efforts by communities and landowners already have contributed to a degree of water quality improvement in the Illinois River Watershed. More remains to be done so that both state's water quality standards can be met and all designated uses can be restored, and we look forward to continuing our support for future efforts.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (214) 665-2100, or your staff may contact Mr. Cary Martindale, Congressional Liaison, at (214) 665-8147.

Sincerely,



Ron Curry
Regional Administrator

Enclosure

Identical letters sent to:

The Honorable John Boozman
United States Senate

The Honorable Tom Cotton
United States Senate

The Honorable Jim Inhofe
United States Senate

The Honorable James Lankford
United States Senate

The Honorable Steve Womack
House of Representatives